

March 8, 2021

Testimony In Favor Of Senate Bill 882

An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability

I am writing in strong support of SB882, as it puts into law the goals and plans of Governor Lamont that address the urgent climate crisis. The dangers of this crisis for the environment and for the stability and survival of the global community cannot be overstated.

For many thousands of years before the industrial revolution, atmosphere CO2 level varied slightly around 280 parts per million (ppm). After humans have been burning fossil fuels at a high rate for 150 years, today the atmospheric CO2 level is 412 ppm. The last time our atmosphere CO2 was 412 ppm was 3 million years ago. At that time, the sea level was approximately 75 feet higher than at present, and the coast of Virginia was 90 miles inland from where it is in 2021.

Of course, the process of warming and consequent melting of ice does not occur immediately but is spread over centuries. Unless we not only stop emitting CO2 and methane, but also find ways to increase absorption of carbon out of the atmosphere, we are facing catastrophic changes to sea level, climate patterns, and human and non-human global populations.

Our Department of Energy and Environmental Protection predicts a sea level rise of 20 inches by 2050! This will produce storm surges many feet higher in depth, likely destroying natural barriers and property along the coast of Long Island Sound and along coastlines everywhere in the nation and world.

Already, we are seeing severe climate-related disruptions to agriculture in countries near the equator, with human migration from those regions toward the poles. This migration is bound to accelerate and result in severe social and political conflict and chaos.

SB 882 implements many thoughtful and necessary measures we can take at the state and regional level to address and meet the climate crisis. I strongly urge its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

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